

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1                   1. A method of configuring a network access device having a first  
2 network address allocated to a subscriber of services of a first service provider  
3 provided by a first service network, with a new network address allocated to a  
4 subscriber of services of a second service provider provided by a second service  
5 network, wherein the network access device is connected to an access network  
6 connected to a plurality of service networks, comprising the steps of:  
7                   sending a request from the network access device to the access  
8 network requesting a change to a second service provider;  
9                   receiving a response from the access network; and  
10                  initiating a network address change request using a configuration  
11 protocol,  
12                  whereby, a second network address allocated to the subscriber of  
13 services of the second service provider is assigned to the network access device, the  
14 second network address being utilized by the network access device to communicate  
15 data packets to the service network providing the selected service .

1                   2. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein said request to said access  
2 network includes an authentication request for the subscriber.

3. The method recited in Claim 2, wherein said response received from said access network includes an authentication status for the subscriber from the second service provider and, if authenticated, initiating said network address change request.

4. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein the host configuration protocol is a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP).

5. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein the network access device receives an Internet Protocol address.

6. The method recited in Claim 5, wherein the network access device displays a plurality of service provider choices and enables a subscriber to select a service provider from among said choices over the access network.

7. A method of configuring a network access device having a first network address allocated to a subscriber of services of a first service provider provided by a first service network, with a new network address allocated to a subscriber of services of a second service provider provided by a second service network, wherein the network access is connected to an access network connected to a plurality of service networks, comprising the steps of:

sending a request from the network access device to the access network requesting a change to a second service provider; and

receiving a response from the access network; and

initiating a network address change request using a DHCP configuration protocol,

whereby a second network address allocated to the subscriber of services of the second service provider is assigned to the network access device, the

second network address being utilized by the network access device to communicate data packets to the service network providing the selected service.

8. A method of configuring a network access device to obtain a network address allocated to a subscriber of services of a selected service provider provided by a service network of the selected service provider, wherein the network access device is connected to an access network connected to a plurality of service networks, comprising the steps of:

sending a request from the network access device to the access network requesting a change to the selected service provider, wherein said request includes an authentication request for the subscriber;

receiving a response from the access network, wherein said response includes an authentication status for the subscriber; and

if the subscriber is authenticated, initiating a network address change request using a configuration protocol,

whereby a network address allocated to the subscriber of the selected service provider is assigned to the network access device, the network address being utilized by the network access device to communicate data packets to the service network providing the selected service.

9. The method recited in Claim 8, wherein the host configuration protocol is a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP).

10. The method recited in Claim 9, wherein the network access device receives an Internet Protocol address.

11. A method of configuring a network access device having a first network address allocated to a subscriber of services of a first service provider provided by a first service network, with a new network address allocated to a

subscriber of services of a second service provider provided by a second service network, wherein the network access device is connected to an access network communicating with a service activation system and connected to a plurality of service networks, comprising the steps of:

          sending authentication information for the second service provider to the service activation system over the access network;

          receiving an authentication status from the service activation system and, if authenticated;

          initiating a network address change request using a configuration protocol,

          whereby a network address allocated to the subscriber of the selected service provider is assigned to the network access device, the network address being utilized by the network access device to communicate data packets to the service network providing the selected service.

12. A method of configuring a network access device having a first network address allocated to a subscriber of services of a first service provider provided by a first service network, with a new network address allocated to a subscriber of services of a second service provider provided by a second service network, wherein the network access device is connected to an access network communicating with a service activation system and connected to a plurality of service networks, comprising the steps of:

          sending authentication information for the second service provider to the service activation system over the access network;

          receiving an authentication status from the service activation system and, if authenticated;

12                   initiating a network address change request using a dynamic host  
13   configuration protocol (DHCP),  
14                   whereby a network address allocated to the subscriber of the selected  
15   service provider is assigned to the network access device, the network address being  
16   utilized by the network access device to communicate data packets to the service  
17   network providing the selected service.

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